# Wiley University, Marshall, Tex.

## Rev. M. W. Dogan, Ph.D., President

VILEY University, one of the schools of the Freedmen's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is located on a tract of fifty acres of land, about three-quarters of a mile from the Court House, Marshall, Tex., and in one of the black belts of the state, within easy reach of half a million Negroes.

The University was founded in 1873 and chartered in 1882. Its early presidents were white men, leaders in the educational work of the denomination. In 1894, the policy of the institution was changed and Rev. I. B. Scott, D.D., one of the progressive Negroes of the church, was made president. Two years later he was elected editor of the *Southwestern Christian Advocate*, New Orleans, and he is now Missionary Bishop of Africa. Rev. M. W. Dogan, A.M., Ph.D., has been president since 1906.

## One Hundred Thousand Dollars in Buildings in Eight Years

The main or central building cost \$31,000, and of this amount \$19,000 was raised by the members of the Texas Conference, and students of the University. During the past eight years more than \$100,000 have been put into buildings at the University. Of this amount there have been only two large donations, one of \$15,000 by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, for a library building, and the other of \$5,000 by Mr. H. G. Coe, of Iowa, for a boys' dormitory, now in process of construction. Nearly all the rest has come from the Texas Conference, largely through the medium of "conference rallies."

#### A Practical Test of Efficiency

An interesting story is told in connection with the construction of the library building. Wiley is the only institution for Negroes west of the Mississippi River which has a library building. The coöperation of Mr. Carnegie was secured through Mr. Emmett J. Scott, secretary to President Booker T. Washington, and an alumnus of Wiley. The plans were made by the architect of Tuskegee Institute, and the work of construction was begun by a local mechanic, who employed a number of the students. The Labor Union of Marshall objected to the employment of students, and demanded that the work of constructing the library be placed entirely in the hands of the union. The University officials were unable to come to terms with the

Labor Union so as to allow students to have a part in the construction of the building. The men were therefore called off, and the plan was temporarily abandoned. Claude Hudson, one of the students, offered to take charge of the work of construction, and do it with student labor. The supervising architect at first declined the proposition, but Hudson was finally given the work. His work passed the inspection of the architects and won their highest commendation, and the library stands to-day, not only as one of the finest buildings in Marshall, but one of the best built.

#### Students Erect the Buildings

The boys' dormitory, which is being constructed almost entirely by student labor, will be ready for occupancy at the beginning of the term in September, 1909. The fine two-story residence of President Dogan, recently constructed, was built from money donated by students, friends, and the Texas Conference. All bricks used in the construction of the university buildings have been made on the grounds, and largely by the students, and students in the departments of Brick Masonry and Carpentry have done nearly all the constructive work that has been carried on for twelve years.

## Important Departments of Work

Wiley University, in addition to the regular courses of study in the literary department, operates several lines of industrial training. In the large trades building are taught book making, cabinet work, pyrography, electrical engineering, etc. The department of law takes high rank. In 1908, twelve students were preparing for the ministry. The department of nurse training has been of a very helpful character, and the modern two-story hospital building, recently completed, has been a great blessing to the Negroes of Marshall and vicinity.

#### The King Industrial Home

The King Industrial Home, Miss Rose T. Robertson, super-intendent, is connected with Wiley University, under the auspices of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It is the largest and oldest school of the society in Texas. It was named in honor of Mrs. Jane King, of Ohio. The institution aims to give a practical object lesson in what a model home should be and to supplement the industrial training for girls of Wiley University. There were 73 boarders in 1908.